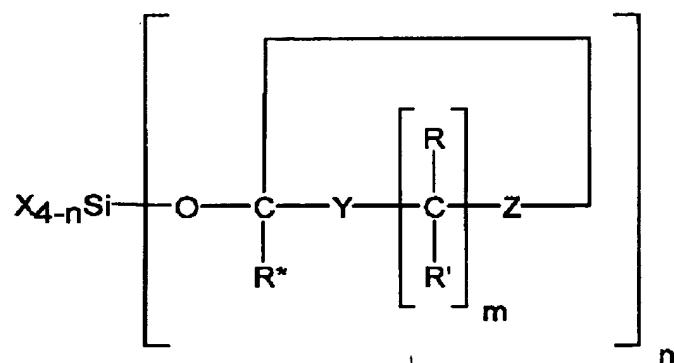


**CLAIM AMENDMENTS:**

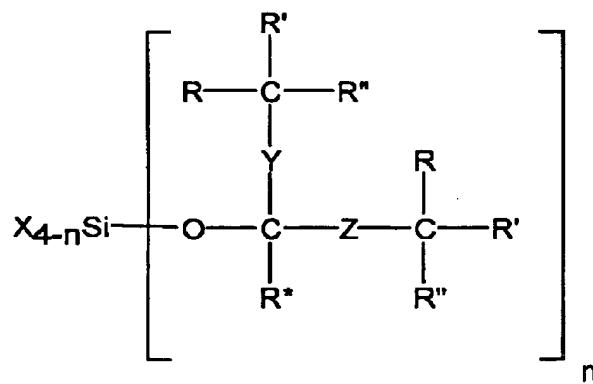
Please amend the claims in the subject patent application as follows:

1. - 3. (canceled)

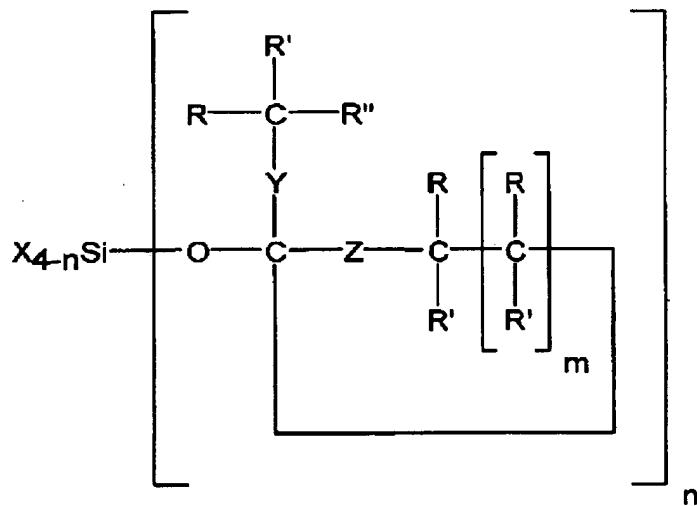
4. (currently amended) A modified silane compound as specified in claim 3 claim 21 wherein the silane compound is of the structural formula:



5. (currently amended) A modified silane compound as specified in claim 3 claim 21 wherein the silane compound is of the structural formula:

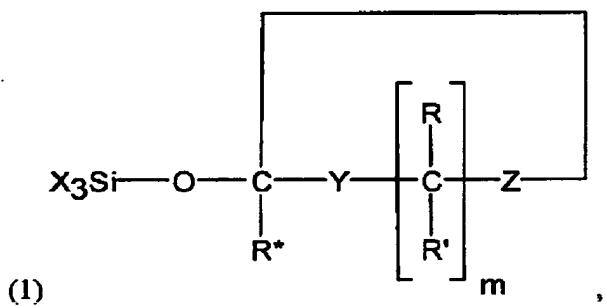


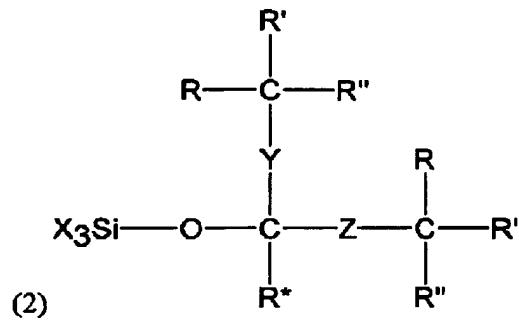
6. (currently amended) A modified silane compound as specified in ~~claim 3~~ claim 21 wherein the silane compound is of the structural formula:



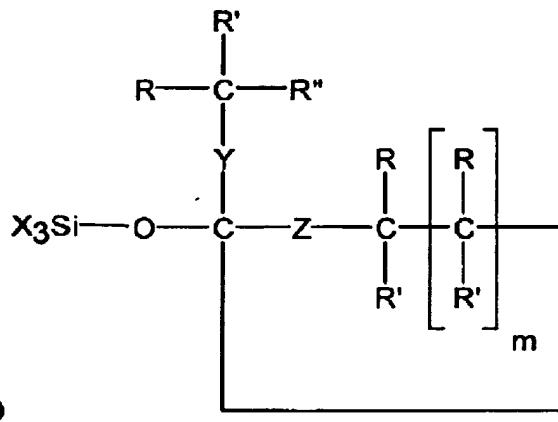
7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A modified silane compound as specified in ~~claim 1~~ wherein said modified silane compound is of the a structural formula selected from the group consisting of:





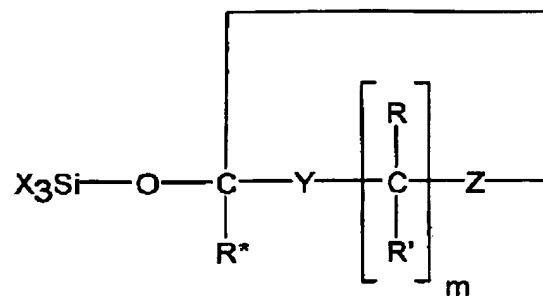
and



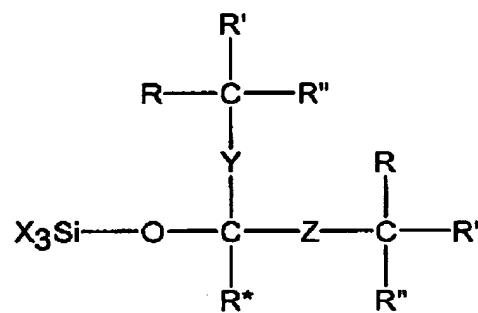
wherein m represents an integer from 1 to about 20; with the proviso that m can represent the integer 0 for structures of formula (3) wherein Z represents the group C(R)R' wherein X represents a chemical moiety other than a methyl group; wherein X groups can be the same or different; wherein X represents a chemical moiety other than a methyl, ethyl, butyl, or phenyl in cases where the modified silane compound is of structural formula (1) wherein Y represents an oxygen atom wherein Z represents the moiety C(R)R' ~~wherein m is equal~~ wherein m is equal to the integer 2 or the integer 3; wherein X represents a chemical moiety other than a methyl group, a tertiary butyl group, or a phenyl group in cases where the modified silane compound is of

structural formula (3) wherein Y represents an oxygen atom wherein Z represents the moiety C(R)R' wherein m is equal to the integer 3; wherein R, R', and R" can be the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen atoms, alkyl groups containing from 1 to about 12 carbon atoms, aryl groups containing from about 6 to about 18 carbon atoms, alkaryl groups containing from 7 to about 18 carbon atoms, alkoxy groups containing from 1 to about 18 carbon atoms, hydroxy groups, and halide atoms; wherein R\* is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen atoms, alkyl groups containing from 1 to about 12 carbon atoms, aryl groups containing from about 6 to about 18 carbon atoms, and alkaryl groups containing from 7 to about 18 carbon atoms; wherein R, R', R", and R\* can be bonded together in any combination in cases where R, R', R", and R\* are not hydrogen atoms, halide atoms, or hydroxy groups; wherein Y represents a moiety selected from the group consisting of C(R)R', oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen, and phosphorus; wherein Z represents a moiety selected from the group consisting of C(R)R', oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen, and phosphorus; with the proviso that Y and Z can not both represent the moiety C(R)R'; wherein the contiguous cyclic ring in formulas (1) and (3) may contain heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen, phosphorus, and silicon in cases where m represents an integer greater than 1; wherein the contiguous cyclic ring in formulas (1) and (3) may be saturated or unsaturated in cases where m represents an integer greater than 1; wherein said alkyl groups, aryl groups, alkaryl groups, and alkoxy groups can contain halide atoms and heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen, phosphorus, and silicon.

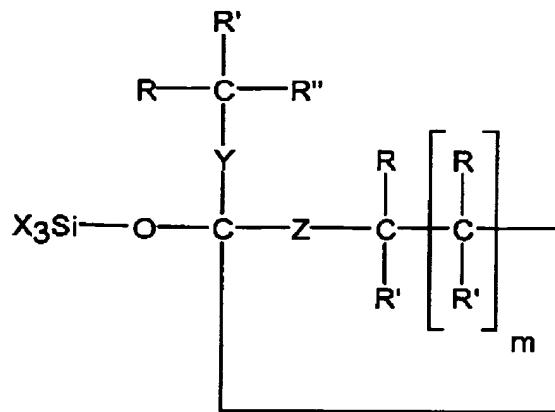
9. (original) A modified silane compound as specified in claim 8 wherein the silane compound is of the structural formula:



10. (original) A modified silane compound as specified in claim 8 wherein the silane compound is of the structural formula:



11. (original) A modified silane compound as specified in claim 8 wherein the silane compound is of the structural formula:



12. (currently amended) A modified silane compound as specified in claim 3 claim 21 wherein at least one of the members selected from the group consisting of R, R', and R" is a hydroxyl groups group.

13. (currently amended) A modified silane compound as specified in claim 4 wherein at least one of the members selected from the group consisting of R, R', and R'' R and R' is a hydroxyl groups group.

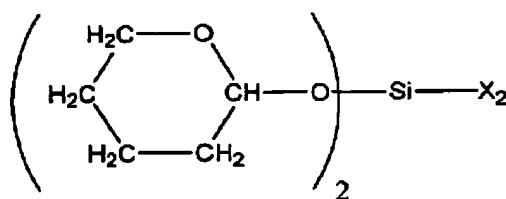
14. (currently amended) A modified silane compound as specified in claim 6 wherein at least one of the members selected from the group consisting of R, R', and R" is a hydroxyl groups group.

15. (currently amended) A modified silane compound as specified in claim 8 wherein at least one of the members selected from the group consisting of R, R', and R'' is a hydroxyl groups group.

16. (currently amended) A modified silane compound as specified in claim 9 wherein at least one of the members selected from the group consisting of R, R', and R'' is a hydroxyl groups group.

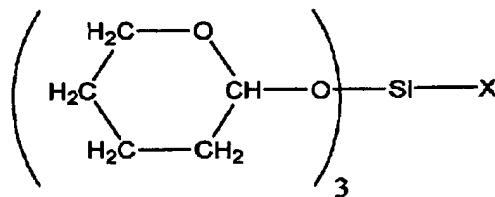
17. (currently amended) A modified silane compound as specified in claim 11 wherein at least one of the members selected from the group consisting of R, R', and R" is a hydroxyl groups group.

18. (currently amended) A modified silane compound as specified in ~~claim 3~~ claim 21 wherein said modified silane compound is of the structural formula:



wherein X represents a chemical moiety.

19. (currently amended) A modified silane compound as specified in ~~claim 3~~ claim 21 wherein said modified silane compound is of the structural formula:

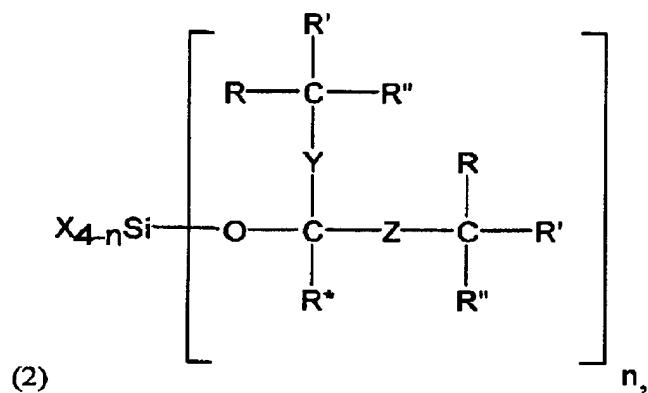
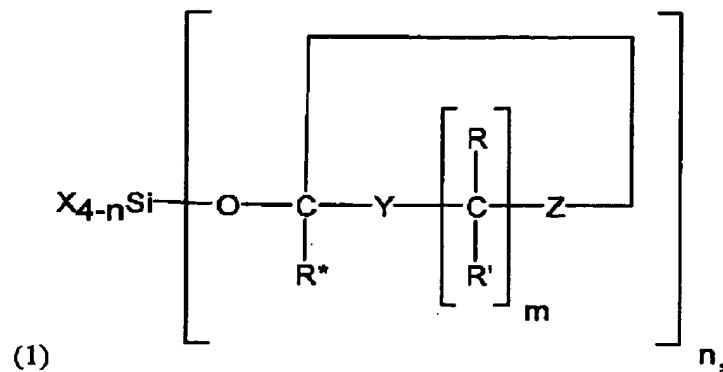


wherein X represents a chemical moiety.

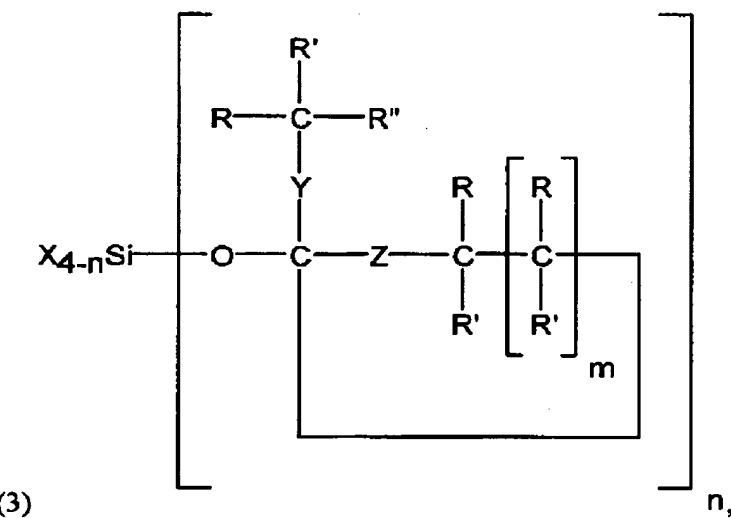
20. (canceled)

21. (new) A modified silane compound having a structural formula selected

from the group consisting of:



and



wherein n represents an integer from 2 to 4; wherein m represents an integer from 1 to about 20; with the proviso that m can represent the integer 0 for structures of formula (3) wherein Z represents the group C(R)R'; wherein X groups can be the same or different; wherein X represents a chemical moiety; with the proviso that X does not represent a methyl group, an ethyl group, or a phenyl group in cases where the modified silane compound is of structural formula (2) wherein n represents the integer 1 or the integer 2; R\* represents a hydrogen atom; Y represents an oxygen atom; and Z represents the moiety C(R)R'; wherein R, R', and R'' can be the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen atoms, alkyl groups containing from 1 to about 12 carbon atoms, aryl groups containing from about 6 to about 18 carbon atoms, alkaryl groups containing from 7 to about 18 carbon atoms, alkoxy groups containing from 1 to about 18 carbon atoms, hydroxy groups, and halide atoms; wherein R\* is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen atoms, alkyl groups containing from 1 to about 12 carbon atoms, aryl groups containing from about 6 to about 18 carbon atoms, and alkaryl groups containing from 7 to about 18 carbon atoms; wherein R, R', R'', and R\* can be bonded together in any combination in cases where R, R', R'', and R\* are not hydrogen atoms, halide atoms, or hydroxy groups; wherein Y represents a moiety selected from the group consisting of C(R)R', oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen, and phosphorus; wherein Z represents a moiety selected from

the group consisting of C(R)R', oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen, and phosphorus; with the proviso that Y and Z can not both represent the moiety C(R)R'; wherein the contiguous cyclic ring in formulas (1) and (3) can contain heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen, phosphorus, and silicon in cases where m represents an integer greater than 1; wherein the contiguous cyclic ring in formulas (1) and (3) can be saturated or unsaturated in cases where m represents an integer greater than 1; wherein said alkyl groups, aryl groups, alkaryl groups, and alkoxy groups can contain halide atoms and heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen, phosphorus, and silicon.